

5.2.72

Pls note: All papers dated January 1971
thru 5 April 1972 re "Declassification"
are filed in NSSM 113.

Sharon

DECLASSIFICATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

1. Official information may be classified only if its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in some degree of damage to the national security (national defense or foreign relations).
 2. Over-classification, the classification of documents on grounds other than national security, and the unwarranted exemption of documents from the General Declassification Schedule may be the basis for administrative action.
 3. Classification authority is restricted to those who are designated in writing in each category -- Top Secret, Secret and Confidential. Up-to-date lists of those designated will be maintained by each department.
 4. The authority to classify is personal and non-delegable.
 5. The classifier shall be named on, or identifiable from, the document.
 6. If classified information above the recipient's classification authority is incorporated in another document, he shall continue the assigned classification and, unless impracticable, indicate the classifier on the material he prepares.
 7. Where practicable, the document shall indicate which portions are classified, and which are not.
 8. Each classified document (other than electronic message traffic) shall indicate:
 - (a) the classification
 - (b) the office of origin
 - (c) the date of preparation
 - (d) whether the document is subject to or exempt from the General Declassification Schedule which is 10 years for Top Secret, 8 years for Secret and 6 years for Confidential
 - (e) when it is to be declassified.
- (When Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data markings are applied, notations (d) and (e) are unnecessary.)
9. Documents may be exempted from the General Declassification Schedule only by a person with "Top Secret" classification authority, and only if the information:
 - (a) is furnished by foreign governments or international organizations and held by the United States on the understanding that it be kept in confidence,
 - (b) pertains to Restricted Data, Formerly Restricted Data, cryptography, or discloses intelligence sources or methods,
 - (c) discloses a system, plan, installation, project or specific foreign relations matter the continued protection being essential to the national security, or
 - (d) would place a person in immediate jeopardy.
 10. Departmental regulations will be issued shortly spelling out the above rules in detail. Classifiers should familiarize themselves accordingly.

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